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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/607,275	06/27/2003	David R. Smith	1994-0284	4715
6449	7590	09/27/2004	EXAMINER	
ROTHWELL, FIGG, ERNST & MANBECK, P.C. 1425 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20005			KERSHTEYN, IGOR	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	3745

DATE MAILED: 09/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/607,275	SMITH ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Igor Kershteyn	3745

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 14-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 21 and 22 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 27 June 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

Figures 5 and 6 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.121(d)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rofles (3,985,394).

In figures 1 and 2, Rofles teaches a utility vehicle 10, comprising:

a) a utility mechanism 12 having at least two hydraulic drives 40,42,

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b) a hydraulic circuit 72 including feed ports 28,30, first outlet ports (not numbered) to a first of said hydraulic drives 42 and second outlet ports (not numbered) to a second of said hydraulic drives 40, and said hydraulic circuit being configured to permit flow through said hydraulic circuit 72 concurrently both a) to-or-from said first outlet ports and b) to-or-from said second outlet ports: and a method for hydraulically operating a utility mechanism 12 of a utility vehicle 10, comprising: a) supplying hydraulic fluid into a feed port 28 of a hydraulic circuit 72 for said utility mechanism 12, b) supplying hydraulic fluid fed into said feed port 28 in a direction along a first circulation path through said hydraulic circuit 72 to cause a first hydraulic drive 42 to operate a power function of said utility mechanism 12, c) supplying hydraulic fluid fed into said feed port 28 in a direction along a second circulation path through said hydraulic circuit to cause a second hydraulic drive 40 to operate a position function of said utility mechanism 12, and d) concurrently performing said steps b) and c) while said utility vehicle 10 is driven.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-13 are allowed.

Claims 21 and 22 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Prior Art

Prior art made of record but not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure and consist of three patents.

Burton (6,354,081) is cited to show a hydraulic circuit for a utility attachment having two hydraulic drives, two feed ports, two first outlet ports, and two second outlet ports but fails to teach a shuttling valve arranged to direct fluid to a directional control valve.

Nesi (6,622,611) is cited to show a hydraulic circuit for a utility attachment having two hydraulic drives, two feed ports, two first outlet ports, and two second outlet ports but fails to teach a shuttling valve arranged to direct fluid to a directional control valve.

Domann (6,662,881) is cited to show a hydraulic circuit for a utility attachment having two hydraulic drives, two feed ports, two first outlet ports, and two second outlet ports but fails to teach a shuttling valve arranged to direct fluid to a directional control valve.

Contact information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Kershteyn whose telephone number is (703) 308 8317. The examiner can be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

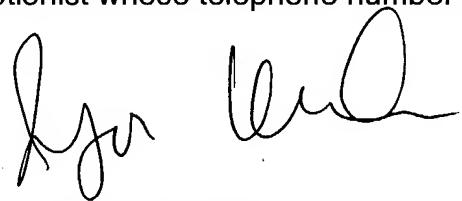
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Look, can be reached on (703) 308 1044. The fax number is (703) 872-9306.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308 0861.

IK

September 24, 2004



Igor Kershteyn
Patent examiner.
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EDWARD K. LOOK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

9/26/04